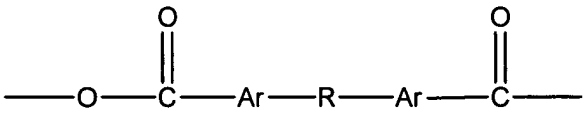
In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 31, 33, 34, 37, and 39; cancel claims 13, 15, 30, 32, 40, and 41; and add new claims 42-47 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) An aromatic polyanhydride comprising a repeating unit having the structure:



wherein Ar is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aromatic ring; ~~and~~ R is $-Z_1-R_1-Z_1-$ ~~a difunctional organic moiety~~ substituted on each Ar ortho to the anhydride group; R_1 is a difunctional organic moiety; Z_1 is a difunctional moiety selected from the group consisting of ester, amides, urethanes, carbamates and carbonates; and Ar and R are selected so that when the aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes, a therapeutic salicylate, another non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, an antifibrotic aminobenzoate, or a vasoconstricting phenylethanolamine is formed.

2. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1, wherein Ar is a phenyl group ~~and R is $-Z_1-R_1-Z_1-$, wherein R_1 is a difunctional organic moiety and Z_1 is a difunctional moiety selected from the group consisting of ester, amides, urethanes, carbamates and carbonates~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1~~2~~, wherein Z_1 is an ester or amide group, and R_1 is selected from the group consisting of $(-CH_2-)_n$, $(-CH_2-CH_2-O-)_m$, $(-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-)_m$, and $(-CH_2-CHCH_3-O-)_m$, wherein n is from 1 to 20, inclusive and m is selected so that R_1 has between 2 and 20 carbon atoms, inclusive.

4. (Original) The aromatic polyanhydride of claim 3, wherein n is 6.

5. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1~~2~~, wherein R_1 is $-R_2-Z_2-R_3-$, wherein R_2 and R_3 are difunctional organic moieties and Z_2 is a difunctional moiety selected from the group consisting of esters, amides, urethanes, carbamates and carbonates.

6. (Original) The aromatic polyanhydride of claim 5, wherein R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of alkylene groups containing from 1 to 19 carbon atoms, $(-CH_2-CH_2-O-)_m$, $(-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-)_m$, and $(-CH_2-CHCH_3-O-)_m$, wherein m is between 2 and 18, inclusive.

7. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1~~2~~, wherein Ar and R are selected so that said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes to form a therapeutic salicylate~~s, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory naphthyl or phenyl propionates, antifibrotic aminobenzoates or vasoconstricting phenylethanolamimes~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The aromatic polyanhydride of claim 7, wherein ~~Ar and R are selected so that said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes to form a therapeutic~~ the salicylate is selected from the group consisting of thymotic acid, 4-sulfanilamidosalicylic acid, salicylsulfuric acid, salsalate, mesalamine, gentisic acid, enfenamic acid, salicylic acid, cresotic acid, aminosalicylic acid and aminophenylacetic acid.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) An implantable medical device comprising the aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1.

11. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein said device is a scaffolding implant for tissue reconstruction.

12. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 10 comprising a biologically or pharmaceutically active compound in combination with said aromatic

polyanhydride, wherein said active compound is present in amounts sufficient for therapeutically effective site-specific or systemic drug delivery, wherein Ar and R are selected so that when the aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes, a therapeutic salicylate is formed.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A method for site-specific or systemic drug delivery comprising implanting in the body of a patient in need thereof an implantable drug delivery device comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a biologically or pharmaceutically active compound in combination with the aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1.

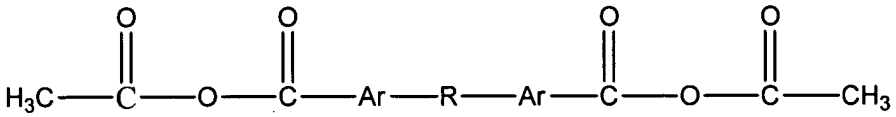
15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A drug delivery system comprising the aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1 physically admixed with a biologically or pharmaceutically active agent.

17. (Original) A drug delivery system comprising a biologically or pharmaceutically active agent physically embedded or dispersed into a polymeric matrix formed from the aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1.

18. (Original) A drug delivery system comprising a biologically or pharmaceutically active agent covalently bonded to the aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1.

19. (Currently Amended) An ortho-substituted bis-aromatic dicarboxylic acid anhydride having the structure:



wherein Ar is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aromatic ring; ~~and~~ R is $-Z_1-R_1-Z_1-$ ~~a difunctional organic moiety~~ substituted on each Ar ortho to the anhydride group; R_1 is a difunctional organic moiety; Z_1 is a difunctional moiety selected from the group consisting of ester, amides,

urethanes, carbamates and carbonates; and Ar and R are selected so that when the ortho-substituted bis-aromatic dicarboxylic acid anhydride hydrolyzes, a therapeutic salicylate, another non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, an antifibrotic aminobenzoate, or a vasoconstricting phenylethanolamine is formed.

20. (Currently Amended) The acid anhydride of claim 19, wherein Ar is a phenyl group ~~and R is $-Z_1-R_1-Z_1-$, wherein R_1 is a difunctional organic moiety and Z_1 is a difunctional moiety selected from the group consisting of esters, amides, urethanes, carbamates and carbonates~~.

21. (Previously Amended) The acid anhydride of claim 20, wherein Z_1 is an ester or amide group, and R_1 is selected from the group consisting of $(-CH_2-)_n$, $(-CH_2-CH_2-O-)_m$, $(-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-)_m$, and $(-CH_2-CHCH_3-O-)_m$, wherein n is from 1 to 20, inclusive, and m is selected so that R_1 has between 2 and 20 carbon atoms, inclusive.

22. (Original) The acid anhydride of claim 21, wherein n is 6.

23. (Currently Amended) An ortho-substituted bis-aromatic dicarboxylic acid having the structure HOOC-Ar-R-Ar-COOH, wherein Ar is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted~~ an aromatic ring; ~~and~~ R is $-Z_1-R_1-Z_1-$ ~~a difunctional organic moiety~~ substituted on each Ar ortho to the anhydride group; R_1 is a difunctional organic moiety; Z_1 is a difunctional moiety selected from the group consisting of ester, amides, urethanes, carbamates and carbonates; and Ar and R are selected so that when the ortho-substituted bis-aromatic dicarboxylic acid anhydride hydrolyzes, a therapeutic salicylate, another non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, an antifibrotic aminobenzoate, or a vasoconstricting phenylethanolamine is formed.

24. (Currently Amended) The dicarboxylic acid of claim 23, wherein Ar is a phenyl group ~~and R is $-Z_1-R_1-Z_1-$, wherein R_1 is a difunctional organic moiety and Z_1 is a difunctional organic moiety selected from the group consisting of esters, amides, urethanes, carbamates and carbonates~~.

25. (Previously Amended) The dicarboxylic acid of claim 24, wherein Z_1 is an ester or amide group, and R_1 is selected from the group consisting of $(-CH_2)_n$, $(-CH_2-CH_2-O-)_m$, $(-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-)_m$ and $(-CH_2-CHCH_3-O-)_m$, wherein n is from 1 to 20, inclusive, and m is selected to that R_1 has between 2 and 20 carbon atoms, inclusive.

26. (Original) The dicarboxylic acid of claim 25, wherein n is 6.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for treating inflammation comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a quantity of the aromatic polyanhydride of claim 1~~2~~, wherein Ar and R are selected so that a ~~Ar and R are selected so that said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes to form~~ therapeutic salicyclates or phenyl or naphthyl propionic acids is formed at the site of said inflammation in an amount effective to relieve said inflammation when the aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes.

28. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein Ar and R are selected so that said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes to form a therapeutic salicylate selected from the group consisting of thymotic acid, 4-sulfanilamidosalicylic acid, salicylsulfuric acid, salsalate, mesalamine, gentisic acid, enfenamic acid, salicylic acid, cresotic acid, aminosalicylic acid and aminophenylacetic acid.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of an aromatic polyanhydride according to claim 1~~2~~, wherein Ar and R are selected so that when said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes, ~~to form~~ an antifibrotic aminobenzoates or a vasonconstricting phenylethanolamines is formed.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) An anti-inflammatory ~~oral~~ dosage form ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising an effective amount of the aromatic polyanhydride of claim ~~72~~, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient~~, wherein Ar and R are selected so that said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes to form therapeutic salicylates or phenyl or naphtyl propionic acids~~.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~oral~~ dosage form of claim 33, wherein ~~Ar and R are selected so that~~ said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes to form a therapeutic salicylate selected from the group consisting of thymotic acid, 4-sulfanilamidosalicylic acid, salicylsulfuric acid, salicylic acid, salsalate, mesalamine, gentisic acid, enfenamic acid, cresotic acid, aminosalicylic acid and aminophenylacetic acid.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The ~~oral~~ dosage form of claim 33, further comprising a second therapeutic agent to be administered in combination with said polyanhydride.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for treating digestive inflammation comprising ~~orally~~ administering to a patient in need thereof a quantity of the aromatic polyanhydride of claim ~~72~~, ~~wherein Ar and R are selected so that said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes to form therapeutic salicylates at the site of said inflammation~~ in an amount effective to relieve said inflammation.

38. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein said therapeutic salicylate is selected from the group consisting of thymotic acid, 4-sulfanilamidosalicylic acid, salicylsulfuric acid, salicylic acid, salsalate, mesalamine, gentisic acid, enfenamic acid, cresotic acid, aminosalicylic acid and aminophenylacetic acid.

39. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic treatment method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective quantity of an aromatic polyanhydride according to claim 1, wherein Ar and R are selected so that said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes to form an antifibrotic aminobenzoates or a vasoconstricting phenylethanolamines.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (New) The aromatic polyanhydride of claim 3, wherein Ar and R are selected so that said aromatic polyanhydride hydrolyzes to form a therapeutic salicylate.

43. (New) A film, coating, dish or sponge comprising the polymer of claim 1.

44. (New) A film, coating, dish or sponge comprising the polymer of claim 42.

45. (New) A film, coating, dish or sponge comprising the polymer of claim 8.

46. (New) A medical implant having a coating that comprises a polymer of claim 1.

47. (New) A medical implant having a coating that comprises a polymer of claim 42.

48. (New) A medical implant having a coating that comprises a polymer of claim 8.

49. (New) The medical implant of claim 44 that is selected from the group consisting of a vascular graph, a stent, a bone plate, a suture, an implantable sensor, an implantable drug delivery device or a stent for tissue regeneration.

50. (New) The medical implant of claim 47 that is selected from the group consisting of a vascular graph, a stent, a bone plate, a suture, an implantable sensor, an implantable drug delivery device or a stent for tissue regeneration.

51. (New) The polymer of claim 7 that is processed using solvent casting.